


Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie

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7 A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION
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IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To recognize and honor the 30th Anniversary of Beacon House, an organization that provides children with a safe and nurturing environment in which they may pursue academic excellence, discover their talents, and achieve their greatest potential in the Edgewood neighborhood in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, Beacon House was founded by Reverend Donald E. Robinson in 1991;

WHEREAS, with the support of Edgewood residents, Community Preservation and Development Corporation, and members of the D.C. metropolitan area's Unitarian Universalist churches, Rev. Robinson began offering homework help to a dozen children in a donated basement in the affordable housing complex, then named Edgewood Terrace in Ward 5 in Northeast Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, Beacon House has remained in the same affordable housing complex, now named Edgewood Commons, for over 30 years, and has grown to serve more than 400 youth annually in two 6,000 square foot centers;

WHEREAS, Beacon House is a Black-led, Black-benefiting organization serving youth who are 96% Black and 4% Hispanic/LatinX;

WHEREAS, Beacon House, led by Athletics Director Rodney Cephas, expanded its programs to include athletics in 1999;

WHEREAS, since 2003, Beacon House has been recognized as "One of the Best" nonprofits in Washington, D.C. by the Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington;

WHEREAS, Beacon House received its first 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, from the D.C. Office of the State Superintendent of Education in 2007;

37 WHEREAS, during 2016, its 25th year of serving the Edgewood community, Beacon
38 House received the “Local Innovator Award,” given to organizations making outstanding and
39 innovative contributions to the health of a community via physical activity promotion, from the
40 Physical Active Special Interest Group of the Society of Behavioral Medicine;

41 WHEREAS, over the past 13 years, 94% of Beacon House graduating high school seniors
42 planned to attend college, enlist in military service, or attend a trade school;

43 WHEREAS, because of Rev. Robinson’s vision, hundreds of children in Ward 5 have
44 graduated from high school prepared for success in postsecondary schooling, work, and life; and
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46 WHEREAS, Beacon House turned 30 in December 2021 and is hosting its 30th Anniversary
47 Celebration Wednesday, March 30, 2022
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49 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
50 resolution may be cited as the “Beacon House 30th Anniversary Recognition Resolution of 2022”.
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52 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors Beacon House on
53 its 30th Anniversary and for its outstanding dedication to a safe environment and community
54 service in the District.
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56 Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.
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